



Coburn Freer

November 5, 1939 - February 26, 2019

Rochester. Wilbert Coburn Freer passed away February 26, 2019, in the Episcopal Church Home, Rochester, NY. He was born in the French Quarter, New Orleans, LA, to Lillian Hicks Glascock and Bruce Glascock on November 5, 1939.

He grew up in Portland, OR, graduated from Roosevelt High School, received BAs in Mathematics and English Literature (Lewis and Clark College), and a Doctorate in English (University of Washington). He taught English and Creative Writing at University of Arizona; University of Montana; University of Oulu (Finland); University of London (England); and University of Georgia, where he served as Department Head (English) and from which he retired as Professor Emeritus.

Throughout his forty-year career he wrote, and presented at conferences, numerous scholarly papers on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English literature, and wrote two books (Johns Hopkins Press), *Music for a King: George Herbert's Style and the Metrical Psalms* (1972), and *The Poetics of Jacobean Drama* (1981). He received both National Endowment of the Arts and Fulbright grants.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Ramona; daughter, Meagan (Dan), their children, Anneli, Davin, and Kalen, of Kingston, Ontario; daughter, Elinor (David), and their children, Alina and Nathaniel, of Rochester, NY. He is also survived by a brother, Frank Freer (Susan); nieces, Mary Ellen (Allan) and Diane (Steve) of Portland, OR, and a half-sister, Toni (Ragnar), of Tyler, TX.

A family celebration will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Nature Conservancy, 274 N. Goodman St., Suite B261, Rochester, NY, 14607 www.nature.org/ or George Eastman Museum, 900 East Ave., Rochester, NY, 14607 www.eastman.org/

Comments



“ I was in grad school at UGA from 1983 to 1985 (MA) and had Dr. Freer for one class, and had a number of interactions with him outside the classroom. The class was great fun, and inspiring. I was introduced then to poets who still inform my life. To his family: I'm sorry for your loss, but know -- if you don't already -- that his life touched many in ways that will live on.

Warren Smith - June 04 at 10:29 AM



“ I was fortunate to have Dr. Freer for a class on Milton and another on Renaissance poetry. He was also kind enough to write a recommendation for my graduate school application.

Jeff Bryan - June 03 at 07:03 PM



“ At UGA, I avoided Milton as long as possible but finally had to take the course, which was taught by Dr. Freer. It turned out to be one of the best classes I ever took, as the professor's enjoyment of the material was contagious, and we all laughed probably more than was good for us. I'm still not sure whether it was Milton's wit or Freer's that was the more enjoyable.

Later, Dr. Freer kindly chaired my Reading Committee. My major professor refused to show me the comments of any the other members of the committee, but he strongly insisted that I take Freer's annotations very seriously, which I was glad to do, as those were apt and instructive throughout.

When I finished my doctorate and found myself without a job, Dr. Freer hired me as a temporary instructor, which gave me time to find a tenure-track position (which I still have).

I'm sorry to hear of his passing. He was a splendid teacher and scholar, and I'll never forget his personal kindness. My sincere condolences to his family.

R. W. Haynes

R. W. Haynes - April 02 at 07:33 PM



“ In all my interactions with Coburn, he was unfailingly kind and courteous and above all, thoughtful, curious and engaged. I enjoyed so much the times I spent with him and will treasure the memories I have of him. My family and I share your profound loss and grief and also celebration of his life. Our prayers are with you in this difficult time. With love and sympathy, Phil & Keiko

Phillip Ying - March 07 at 10:12 AM



“ Will miss you, Dad. You had a true zest for life and adventure. And so many talents besides writing and teaching: photography, carpentry/woodworking, car repair, painting and drawing. I'll miss all of that.

Meg Freer - March 05 at 01:51 PM



“ Ramona, Meg and Nell, we were so very sad to see the news of Coburn's passing in the Athens paper today. Such a lovely person and supporter of the music program at CMS and CCHS all those years ago. Please know we are praying for your comfort and peace at this difficult time. We have lovely memories of all of you!

Joan and Chris Clark - March 02 at 05:47 PM



“ In memory of my Dad, a true Renaissance man and lover of life. I'll miss you.
Love, Nell



Elinor Freer - March 02 at 03:32 PM



“ Dear Meg and family, I'm so sorry to hear about your father's passing. My heart goes out to you all at this difficult time. Sending you love and hugs from Missoula. With sympathy. Prue Anne Smith



Prue Anne Smith - March 02 at 10:51 AM